

After speaking with someone who has seen so many traumatic experiences, the war really does become real to me. I also can really feel the pain of having to be so far away from your loved ones for so long. I can't even imagine having to be newly married, then deployed to a foreign country in danger, away from your new spouse, not being able to contact them every day. Or even having children and not being able to see them grow up. This would be extremely hard to do, and it really takes a special type of person to do that. This assignment has given me a new appreciation of everything that our soldiers do for us. When you are just living your normal daily life, there are soldiers out in danger, fighting to let you keep that freedom that you just take advantage of. I believe that more people should get to know about the war veterans, so that they can appreciate everything soldiers do for us.—Abby Callison

A TRIBUTE TO EARTH DAY AND
NORTHWEST HALIFAX HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to mark Earth Day's 40th anniversary. The brainchild of Senator Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day has done more than simply raise awareness of environmental issues; it has helped shape policy to build a more sustainable country.

This occasion should remind everyone of the opportunity to swiftly take steps toward addressing our most dire environmental threat—global climate change. Last June, the House approved the American Clean Energy and Security Act, which would establish a process to curb greenhouse gas emissions. If signed into law, our children will celebrate the 80th annual Earth Day in 2050 with 83 percent less domestic greenhouse gas emissions.

It is critical that the U.S. Senate take immediate steps to provide meaningful, science-based legislation to limit greenhouse gas emissions. We must do our part to leave a legacy of conservation and sustainability for future generations. And, as Congress slowly labors to provide direction, millions of Americans are taking their own steps to live greener and more sustainable lives.

Northwest Halifax High School, located in Littleton, North Carolina in the First Congressional District, has installed a 2.0k/W solar panel system that will use a third less energy and reduce carbon emissions by 117,840 pounds over the lifespan of the system. On average, the school will save enough money to hire two full time teachers.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Earth Day, I urge Congress to meet the mandate of the American people and pass meaningful legislation to confront climate change. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Earth Day, and commending Northwest Halifax High School on setting an example for all Americans.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES FOR
VICTIMS OF TESORO REFINERY
FIRE IN ANACORTES, WASH-
INGTON

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1262, which honors the victims of the fire at the Tesoro Refinery in Anacortes, Washington and expresses condolences to their families, friends, and loved ones in the wake of this tragic incident.

On April 2, 2010, as a team of seven employees worked in the refinery's naphtha hydro-treater, a devastating fire broke out. While the fire was quickly brought under control by Tesoro's fire control team and local first responders, three of the employees died immediately in the fire, three more died of their injuries, and another remains in intensive care after suffering severe burns.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the community of Anacortes and the entire state of Washington, including to Representative RICK LARSEN who represents the affected community. Our district has five refineries that employ many of our constituents and we share in their unfortunate loss.

As we continue to deal with the devastating consequences of this episode, we must also direct our attention to preventing losses of life like this in the future. Ensuring the safety of our refineries must be a top priority to protect the security and wellbeing of our workers, their families, and communities.

Again, I would like to express my condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those killed in the fire and also offer my support and hope for a full recovery to the Anacortes community.

HONORING ISRAELI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 62nd anniversary of one of our country's most steadfast and supportive allies: Israel.

Since Israel's declaration of independence in 1948, Jews from all over the world have moved there to put down roots, flourish, and participate in a Jewish state and society. Israel has grown from a country that provided a refuge for Jews who survived unprecedented horrors and anti-Semitic persecution to a nation with a strong and enduring tradition of democracy and liberal governance.

Israel was born out of war and conflict, and has weathered constant threats from beyond its borders since its creation. The history of Israel is one of a nation small in size but large in its dedication to the enduring principles of democratic governance, liberal democracy, and national unity. It is a testament to the character and inner strength of the Israeli peo-

ple that their country continues to develop and flourish even as it is surrounded by so many who unjustly wish to see it dissolved and destroyed.

The nation of Israel is a friend of the poor and dispossessed around the world. It has sent humanitarian aid and emergency medical supplies to war zones in Rwanda; disaster areas in Turkey, the Indian Ocean, and along the Gulf Coast; and to fire-scorched areas in Greece. Most recently, Israel supplied much-needed support and relief to the people of Haiti, including deploying the Israel Defense Forces on aid missions and contributing millions of dollars to help the Haitian people rebuild their country.

It is clear that Israel's national mission is a higher calling than mere survival or self-perpetuation. It is an example to the world of the power of a determined national spirit, a citizenry dedicated to justice, and a set of founding principles that cannot be corrupted.

From the moment the United States recognized the State of Israel 11 minutes after its creation in 1948, Israel has proven to be a loyal partner with which the United States enjoys a mutually beneficial alliance. The advances made by our two countries in educational, scientific, and technological fields help to make the world a better place, and augment our intelligence and security partnerships in a crucial region of the world.

I join with many of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives in highlighting my admiration for what the nation of Israel has accomplished in the last sixty-two years. It is my hope that the people of Israel use this anniversary as an opportunity to set a path forward that will help bring peace and prosperity to themselves and to their region for the next several years.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAINT
PAUL HOTEL

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the staff and owners of The Saint Paul Hotel on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary, which will be celebrated this weekend on April 17th.

Since its grand opening on April 18th, 1910, The Saint Paul Hotel has served as a geographic and cultural landmark for Minnesota's capital city, as well as a gathering place for Saint Paul's many visitors and residents.

In 1908 local businessman Lucius P. Ordway recognized the need for a major hotel in the growing commercial hub of Saint Paul. Mr. Ordway partnered with the city's Business League to purchase a parcel of land near downtown Saint Paul's Rice Park and finance the hotel's construction. Less than two years later, the Saint Paul Hotel was opened for business. It immediately was recognized as the premier hotel in the region, and less than one month after its grand opening celebration the hotel was named "Best in the West" by the National Hotelman's Association.

After falling into disrepair in the 1950s, civic and business leaders undertook an extensive renovation to return the hotel to its original